

Clean version of Claim 1

1. A method for selecting a drug candidate agent or composition of more than one drug candidate agent of possible clinical value in the treatment of a neurological disease selected from the group consisting of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, familial Alzheimer's disease, familial Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, spinal muscular atrophy, Friedreich's ataxia, giant axon neuropathy, juvenile ceroid-lipofuscinosis, familial motor neuron diseases, juvenile diabetic polyneuropathy and Down's syndrome comprising

c. establishing, from a patient having a predetermined neurological disease, a cell culture of fibroblast cells;

b. establishing, from a person not having the predetermined neurological disease, a control cell culture of fibroblast cells;

c subsequent concomitant cell culture growth of (1) a cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from the patient having a predetermined neurological disease; (2) a control cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from a person not having the predetermined neurological disease; (3) a cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from the patient having a predetermined neurological disease grown in the presence of an agent being investigated; (4) a control cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from a person not having the predetermined neurological disease grown in the presence of an agent being investigated; (5) a control cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from a person not having the predetermined neurological disease grown in the presence of a chemical stress protein-inducing parameter; and (6) a control cell culture of fibroblast cells originally obtained from a person not having the predetermined neurological disease grown in the presence of the stress protein-inducing parameter and the agent being investigated; and

d. use of an indicator system capable of detecting stress protein expression in said culture fibroblast cells to identify as a drug candidate of possible clinical value that agent which does not prevent chemically induced stress protein expression in the control cell culture as per step c(6) but which does prevent stress protein expression in the patient cell culture as per step c(3).